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Contact: Jamie Callahan 866-525-5637  
Matt Classens 800-737-1046

## Senator Allen and Rep. Walker Applaud Administration's Decision to Reinstate Project Funding for M-72

*Announcement Comes After Extensive Discussion and Public Input*

(Lansing, MI) – Following months of deliberation, public input and negotiations, Senator Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, and Representative Howard Walker, R-Traverse City, today hailed the agreement between the Republican controlled Legislature and the Granholm administration to recommend the restoration of funding for the M-72 access management plan to the State Transportation Commission.

“This is good news for the residents of Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties,” Allen said.

“M-72 is a vital corridor linking these two counties to the rest of northern Michigan. The area is attracting new and diverse businesses, which are working to fuel economic growth in these two counties. The step toward providing adequate road infrastructure for this growth is a step in the right direction”

Earlier this year, Gov. Granholm and the Michigan Department of Transportation announced they were deferring 34 capacity road improvement projects across the state, including the M-72 access management plan. The administration's willingness to recommend the project's reinstatement came following intense budget negotiations between the Governor and Legislative leadership.

“I am pleased to announce that this project has been re-instituted and should move forward as scheduled,” Walker said. “The safety concerns and business development issues cited by the local communities have been heard and resolved.”

A feasibility study was recently completed to determine the impacts of various cross section designs for M-72 between US-31 and the Grand Traverse-Kalkaska County line. An access management plan was also developed for this segment as part of the study effort. This plan will help local governments develop or update local land use regulations appropriately.

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**AUDIO ADVISORY:** Audio clips of Sen. Jason Allen are available on the internet at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/> or by phone at (517) 373-4000.